

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 /094 W
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O R 021025Z APR 74
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4939
SECDEF IMMEDIATE
INFO USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1777

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-80
TAGS: MCAP, NATO
SUBJ: AGENDA FOR DPC MEETING APRIL 3-POSSIBLE RELEVANT LESSONS
FOR NATO FROM THE 1973 MIDDLE EAST WAR

REF: USNATO 1741

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PO/74/31, "POSSIBLE RELEVANT LESSONS FOR
NATO FROM THE 1973 MIDDLE EAST WAR", WHICH DPC WILL DISCUSS
DURING ITS APRIL 3 MEETING. BEGIN TEXT.

1. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE SEEN COPIES OF
THE INTERIM REPORT ON POSSIBLE RELEVANT LESSONS FOR NATO FROM
THE 1973 MIDDLE EAST WAR, WHICH HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO ME BY
THE MILITARY COMMITTEE UNDER COVER OF MCM-17-74. I PROPOSE TO
PLACE THIS ON THE AGENDA OF THE DPC NEXT WEDNESDAY.

2. WHILE SOUNDING A NOTE OF WARNING ABOUT THE NEED FOR
FURTHER DETAILED ASSESSMENT AND STUDY, THE REPORT IDENTIFIES
CERTAIN AREAS WHICH REQUIRE FURTHER ATTENTION IN NATO AS THE
RESULT OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THIS CONFLICT, IN PARTICULAR:
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-WAR RESERVE STOCK LEVELS;

-TANK AND ANTI-TANK WEAPONS;

-AIRCRAFT SHELTERS AND AIRCRAFT DISPERSAL;

-ELECTRONIC WARFARE;

-MOBILE AIR DEFENCE SYSTEMS;

-MODERN AIR AND SHIP MUNITIONS.

3. THE REPORT ALSO DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE POSSIBLE NEED TO REVIEW PLANS FOR THE USE OF AIR TRANSPORT RESOURCES, TO IMPROVE SURVEILLANCE METHODS, AND TO KEEP UNDER REVIEW TRAINING AND MOBILISATION PROGRAMMES, PARTICULARLY IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH

ARE UNDERTAKING THE RESTRUCTURING OF THEIR FORCES.

4. THE LESSONS TO BE GAINED IN THESE AREAS WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO BE EVALUATED BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES ON A NATIONAL AS WELL AS AN ALLIANCE BASIS. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ARE RIGHT TO DRAW OUR ATTENTION TO THESE PRELIMINARY DEDUCTIONS AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING DETAILED FORCE GOALS FOR NATO FORCES FOR THE PLANNING PERIOD UP TO 1980. A NUMBER OF THEM, AS WILL BE SEEN, REINFORCE THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE AD 70 STUDY; THEY ARE, THEREFORE, OF DIRECT RELEVANCE TO OTHER WORK ALREADY IN PROGRESS IN THE FORCE PLANNING AND CNAD AREA. BUT I DO NOT THINK, SUBJECT TO THE VIEWS OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, THAT WE NEED TO INITIATE ANY NEW STUDIES AT THIS STAGE, EXCEPT PERHAPS IN THE AIR TRANSPORT FIELD.

5. ONE SUBJECT WHICH FALLS INTO A SEPARATE CATEGORY IS THAT OF WARNING TIME AND THE USE WHICH SHOULD BE MADE OF IT. THE CURRENT INTELLIGENCE CONFERENCE MAY PERHAPS CAST FURTHER LIGHT ON THE CURRENT ASSESSMENTS (MC 161 AND MC 166/3) OF THE DEGREE AND RELIABILITY OF THE WARNING OF ATTACK WHICH NATO CAN EXPECT FROM VARIOUS INTELLIGENCE SOURCES. BUT WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF HILEX-6 STILL FRESH IN OUR MINDS, THE POINTS WHICH THE MILITARY COMMITTEE

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MAKE ABOUT THE EFFECTIVE USE OF THIS TIME FOR DECISION AND ACTION SEEM VERY VALID.

6. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL REMEMBER THAT DURING THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN DECEMBER IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT A SPECIAL STUDY ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. WE HAVE NOT YET DECIDED HOW SUCH A STUDY SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT NOR WHAT ITS SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT HOWEVER WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE ANY VALUE IN A COMPARATIVE STUDY RELATING THE TIMING AND EXECUTION OF ALERT MEASURES AND CONTINGENCY PLANS TO THE WARNING TIME WE MIGHT EXPECT TO RECEIVE UNDER VARIOUS AGREED ASSUMPTIONS. THE OBJECT WOULD BE TO ILLUSTRATE THE NEED FOR TIMELY DECISIONS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE STRENGTH OF NATO'S DEFENCE AND DETERRENT POSTURE IN

THE FACE OF A MOUNTING THREAT.

7. RELATED TO THIS IS THE WHOLE QUESTION OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND THE CONTRL OF INFORMATION ASSOCIATED THEREWITH. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE POINT OUT THAT THE AGREED NATO PROCEDURES WERE NOT IN FACT INVOKED DURING THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, AND THAT THEREFORE IT WOULD NOT BE VALID TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. THEY SUGGEST NEVERTHELESS THAT A REVIEW OF PROCEDURES SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE ABILITY OF NATO HEADQUARTERS TO PROVIDE ASSESSMENTS AND GUIDANCE FOR MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS AND OTHERS IN CONDITIONS OF TENSION OUTSIDE THE NATO AREA. I HAVE ASKED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND EXERCISES COMMITTEE TO PUT THIS IN HAND. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, OTHER ASPECTS OF THIS ISSUE WHICH WE MAY WISH TO DISCUSS IN THE COUNCIL OR DPC.

8. I SHALL BE GLAD TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE ABOVE. END TEXT RUMSFELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO01777
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS 12-31-80
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740482/abbryuce.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 1741
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <04-Sep-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AGENDA FOR DPC MEETING APRIL 3-POSSIBLE RELEVANT LESSONS FOR NATO FROM THE 1973 MIDDLE EAST WAR
TAGS: MCAF, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

